

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 H-01 L-02 PM-03 PRS-01

SP-02 INRE-00 SSO-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:DGBROWN:RD

APPROVED BY EA - MR. HABIB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203459

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: JAPAN-KOREA RELATIONS

REF: SEOUL 6143

1. AMB. YASUKAWA CALLED ON HABIB MORNING OF SEPT 16 TO INFORM HIM OF GOJ'S WILLINGNESS TO HAVE AMB USHIROKU INITIAL DURING SHIINA VISIT A "PAPER" WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN INTENT OF TANAKA'S LETTER TO PARK. IN DISCUSSING TEXT, COPY OF WHICH GIVEN HABIB, YASUKAWA NOTED THERE WERE TWO POINTS WHICH MIGHT GIVE KOREANS DIFFICULTY: A) USE OF WORD "MORAL" IN DESCRIBING JAPAN'S RESPONSIBILITY. WHILE THIS MAY TROUBLE ROK, GOJ UNWILLING TO DROP THAT ADJECTIVE; B) PHRASE STATING THAT INVESTIGATION HAD NOT YET REVEALED ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN CHOSEN SOREN AND ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. RE LATTER, HABIB COMMENTED THAT, WHILE US HAD NO INTENTION OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATION OF WORDING, HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED PHRASE WAS NOT REALLY NECESSARY AND COULD BE DROPPED IF IT WERE THE ONLY POINT PREVENTING AGREEMENT ON TEXT. YASUKAWA SAID HE BELIEVED USHIROKU HAD SHOWN TEXT

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TO KOREANS, BUT DID NOT HAVE CABLE CONFIRMING THAT AND

DID NOT KNOW OF KOREAN REACTION.

2. YASUKAWA SAID FONMIN KIM HAD COMMENTED TO AMB USHIROKU THAT PRESIDENT PARK WAS BECOMING IMPATIENT AND ASKED USG HELP IN AVOIDING PRECIPITOUS ACTION BY ROK. HABIB SAID

THAT AMB SNEIDER HAD DONE JUST THAT IN INITIAL MEETING WITH KIM. HABIB URGED GOJ TO KEEP DIALOGUE GOING IN ORDER TO FORESTALL KOREAN ACTIONS AND TO WORK CONSTANTLY FOR SOLUTION AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME, HOPEFULLY BY SEPT 18.

3. WHEN YASUKAWA SAID KOREANS HAD BEEN TALKING OF "AMERICAN MEDIATION PLAN", HABIB SAID HE HAD SEEN HAPDONG STORY ON SUBJECT. HABIB SAID THAT, IF KOREANS NEED TO USE COSMETIC REFERENCES TO A US ROLE IN ORDER TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION IN KOREA, IT WOULD NOT BE IN EITHER US OR GOJ INTEREST TO REFUTE THE KOREAN COMMENTS PUBLICLY. CONSEQUENTLY HE TOLD YASUKAWA THAT SHOULD PRESS INQUIRE ABOUT THE "AMERICAN MEDIATION PLAN", THE DEPT WILL REPLY ONLY THAT US HAS BEEN URGING BOTH SIDES TO FIND AMICABLE SOLUTION AND THAT BOTH SIDES REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER.

4. YASUKAWA REPORTED THAT SHIINA'S EXPRESSED DESIRE TO PAY VISIT TO MADAM PARK'S GRAVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVING IN SEOUL HAD BEEN APPRECIATED AND ACCEPTED BY KOREANS.

5. AT SAME MEETING, YASUKAWA INFORMED HABIB THAT KOREAN EVENTS HAD NOW FORCED KIMURA TO DELAY DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON, NECESSITATING CANCELATION OF SEPT 19 MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY. HE SAID KIMURA NOW HOPES TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON IN LATE AFTERNOON OF SEPT 20. DEPT IS WORKING ON ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ASSASSINATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE203459
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DGBROWN:RD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740259-0851
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740941/aaaabiwo.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: SEOUL 6143
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPAN-KOREA RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS, US, (TANAKA, KAKUEI), (PARK)
To: TOKYO SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005